

PROJECT OVERVIEW

◆ What is BRSS TACS?

In 2011, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) launched the Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS). The effort, led by the Center for Social Innovation (C4) and its partners, is dedicated to promoting the wide-scale adoption of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems for people in recovery from substance use and/or mental health conditions. In addition to C4, the BRSS TACS Team includes:

- ◆ Abt Associates
- ◆ Advocates for Human Potential
- ◆ Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- ◆ Faces and Voices of Recovery
- ◆ JBS International
- ◆ National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery
- ◆ National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
- ◆ National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
- ◆ National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
- ◆ New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
- ◆ Pat Deegan Associates

◆ How Does BRSS TACS Support SAMHSA's Goals?

In recent years, pockets of excellence have emerged within States and communities that incorporate person-driven, recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and culturally competent services and systems. Yet, 21 million Americans still struggle with addictions, and people with serious

mental illnesses are dying decades earlier than people without mental illnesses. As the nation faces an uncertain fiscal landscape and unprecedented opportunities offered by health reform for the behavioral health field, we confront an urgent need to develop responsive systems based on principles of recovery. These include:

- ◆ Recovery emerges from hope
- ◆ Recovery is person-driven
- ◆ Recovery occurs via many pathways
- ◆ Recovery is holistic
- ◆ Recovery is supported by peers and allies
- ◆ Recovery is supported through relationship and social networks
- ◆ Recovery is culturally-based and influenced
- ◆ Recovery is supported by addressing trauma
- ◆ Recovery involves individual, family, and community strengths and responsibility
- ◆ Recovery is based on respect

Through BRSS TACS, SAMHSA strives to bring recovery to scale through the adoption of recovery-oriented services and systems across the United States. We build on the accomplishments of the mental health and addictions recovery movements and involve people in recovery in every aspect of the project. Additionally, BRSS TACS is an important mechanism for carrying out the work of SAMHSA's Strategic Initiatives, most directly the Recovery Support Strategic Initiative (RSSI). BRSS TACS works to advance SAMHSA's goal of a high-quality, self-directed, and satisfying life in the community for all people, across the dimensions of health, home, purpose, and community.

◆ How Does BRSS TACS Work?

BRSS TACS emphasizes the value of people's lived experience of recovery from substance use and mental health conditions. The project sustains a significant and

meaningful focus on people in recovery in all aspects of project development, leadership, and implementation. The project serves various constituencies that are vital to moving the field towards a recovery orientation. These constituencies include:

- ◆ People in recovery
- ◆ State, county, and city behavioral health authorities
- ◆ Policy makers
- ◆ Researchers
- ◆ Behavioral health providers, including peer providers
- ◆ Other health and human service providers
- ◆ Family members

All activities are guided by the input of a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the multiple diverse audiences that BRSS TACS serves.

BRSS TACS focuses on activities that prepare communities and States to implement recovery-oriented services and systems, and supports them as they work to bring these efforts to scale. Specific activities include:

- ◆ A **Situational Analysis** conducted during the first year of the project to describe the state of recovery supports in the United States and shape the direction of BRSS TACS.
- ◆ **Annual meetings**, including a Consumer Leadership Forum; a National Summit (each year focuses on a different recovery-related topic); and a State Policy Academy meeting that brings together different State teams each year.
- ◆ **Efforts to expand the recovery knowledge base** through expert panels, policy and practice guidelines, an online recovery resource library and online training materials, and other written products and reports. For example, past expert panels have focused on

Equipping Behavioral Health Systems & Authorities To Promote Peer Specialist/Peer Recovery Coaching Services; Operationalizing Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care; and The Role of Family in Recovery. These meetings produce meeting reports and other written products designed to support the field.

- ◆ **Dissemination strategies** such as webinars, telephone and online technical assistance, and an email listserv. Past webinars include *Culture & Diversity in Behavioral Health; Beyond the Rhetoric: Using Recovery Standards, Practices and Assessments to Guide and Evaluate Organizational Change; Recovery Supports for Children and Families; Shared Decision-Making and Recovery: Using Decisional Support Tools To Advance Recovery Supports; and Planning a Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC): Lessons from Texas.*
- ◆ Tools that expand and sustain models of **Shared Decision Making**, including a prototype version of an online decision aid for people considering medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction.
- ◆ **Support for Mental Health Transformation Grantees**, including site visits and a Virtual Listening Tour which resulted in the development of two issue briefs: 1) increasing the voice and influence of peers on advisory and oversight bodies as well as peer support workers in MHTG projects and 2) fostering collaboration and teamwork between peer support staff.
- ◆ **Awards to States and Peer-run organizations** to support education, planning, and implementation of recovery supports. These include State Peer Awards, State Planning Awards, and State Peer Awards for Health Care Reform Education. Out of this work grew a number of resources for peer-run organizations including *Reaping Rewards from the Affordable Care Act: Finding the Nuggets for Your Peer-Led Organization/ Recovery Community and The Value of Recovery Residences.*

◆ SAMHSA Contracting Officer Representatives

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To receive updates on the BRSS TACS project and upcoming events, please join our listserv by sending an email to brsstacs@center4si.com. If you have any other questions, please contact the Center for Social Innovation at (617) 467-6014.